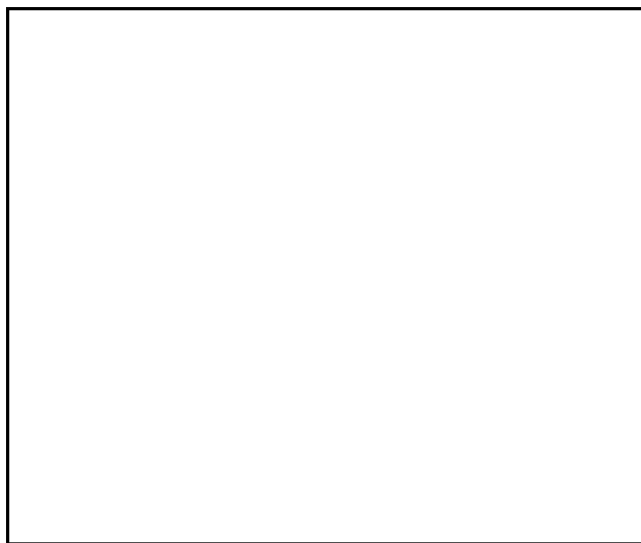


*P. 1. Performance  
File.*

**NEWSLETTER NO. 1**

**RESEARCH ON PHOTOINTERPRETER PERFORMANCE**

**21 April 1964**



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Declass Review by NGA.

Newsletter No. 1

RESEARCH ON PHOTOINTERPRETER PERFORMANCE

This is the first in a series of newsletters regarding a research project concerned with Photointerpreter Performance. Because some of the participants of this research project are physically separated by many miles, newsletters such as this one will be written from time to time in an effort to achieve and maintain good communication regarding project matters.

These letters will be informal. It is hoped that all concerned will participate by contributing items of interest. Again: the purpose of these newsletters is to communicate.

Project History

Early in February '64 D.N.B., F.F. and F.S. completed an exploratory study on PI performance as a function of ground resolution. Among the conclusions formed at the end of that study was that the combination of proper experimental designs, psychometric measures, carefully prepared and objectively measured stimuli and sound statistical treatment of data can yield significant and very useful information regarding the extraction of intelligence from aerial photographs. Consequently, it was decided to do more work along these lines in an effort to better understand the effect of various factors on PI performance.

During the end of March '64, D.N.B., F.F., A.H. and F.S. met for several days to discuss and decide how best to proceed. As a result, three alternate proposals were made. On 15 April L.D., J.W.C., D.N.B. and F.S. discussed these proposals. J.W.C. and L.D. expressed an interest in performing the work described by Proposal #3. J.W.C. is presently working on the funding of this proposal.

Planned Effort

To thoroughly study, at one time, all or even a major portion of those factors which affect PI performance will not only require an experiment of tremendous magnitude but also seems unwise. Therefore, in the planned work three effects will be studied as a function of PI performance: Ground Resolution, Stereo, and Color. The first portion of the work will be concerned with Ground Resolution and Stereo, followed by a study of Color. Very briefly, the planned activity will be as follows:

1. Collection of Photography
2. Preparation of Gems (Stimuli)
3. Test Development
4. Testing
5. Analysis of Test Responses and  
Preparation of Report

Newsletter No. 1 (Continued)

-2-

The objective of this effort is to provide, through experimental means, assistance in assessing the relative worth of various collection systems yielding material of differential ground resolution in mono or stereo, and in monochrome or color.

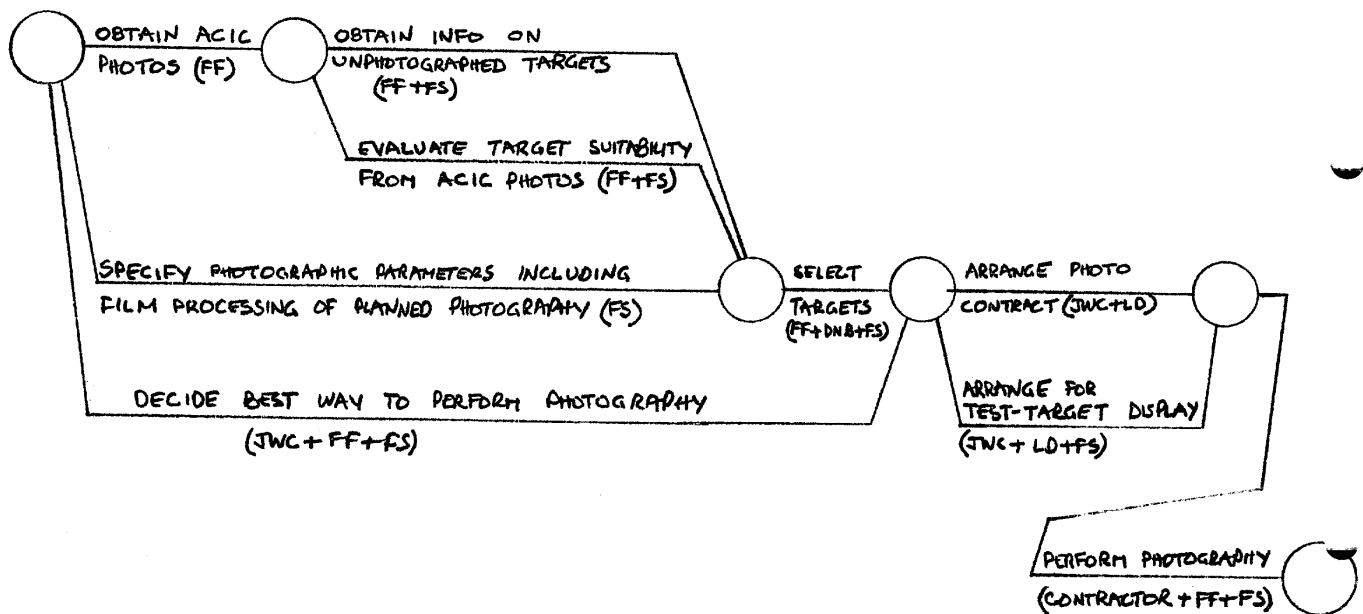
What's Next: Collection of Photography

From a brief survey of targets of typical interest and of those available for photography within the U.S., it was concluded that both the black and white and color photography should include:

1. Missiles, I.C.B.M..  
    5 Minutemen Sites  
    5 Titan Sites  
    5 Atlas Sites
2. Electronics  
    20 Radar Dish Antennas  
    20 Stick Mast Antennas
3. Military  
    20 Air Fields  
    5 Air Fields with Nuclear Facilities  
    5 Submarine Sites
4. Storage  
    20 Sites: Military, Ammo, BW/CW
5. Industry  
    20 Sites
6. Transportation  
    20 Sites: Land, Air-A/F & A/C, Sea, Ports  
        and Harbors, Ships at Sea
7. Power  
    15 Sites

With proper flight path planning, it is anticipated that from a large number of film frames, 75 can be selected which contain all of the targets listed above.

It was decided that the best way to obtain the photography is through an aerial photo survey outfit. We will either buy the photography or buy the use of an airplane, cameras and crew and accompany the crew during the photography. The attached chart shows the actions required to obtain the photography.



Newsletter No. 1 (Continued)

-3-

Gem Making

Although many of the Gem-making details have not been planned, some tentative plans are: to make from about 75 frames of photography black and white Gems varying in [ ] in 5 increments; to hold constant these image characteristics:

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1. Granularity (similar to that of Type 4404 Film)
2. Spread Function Shape
3. Haze
4. Verticality of Photography
5. Film Resolution (Approx. 100 L/MM);

and, since ground resolution will vary, so must the scale and the simulated system focal length vary at a constant simulated altitude. Sun altitude may be held constant or may be randomly varied.

Technical Conference

In an effort to create a better understanding of the photographic and psychological techniques and terminology employed in this work, a technical conference is planned as part of this research project. The conference will be held at [ ]'s shop. A tentative date is 9 through 12 June. The meeting will be attended by D.N.B. and several others from his shop, F.F., R.W., F.S., and others who are directly concerned with, and have an interest in, the technical aspects of this project. The tentative program is:

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Tuesday      A.M. : Optics and Modulation Transfer Functions.

                 P.M. : Photographic Techniques and Terminology.

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Wednesday    A.M. : Other Related Experimental Research.

                 A Look at Several Aerial Cameras.  
                 (Plant Tour)

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                 P.M. : Lab Workshop -- Making a Gem.

Newsletter No. 1 (Continued)

-4-

Thursday A.M.: Psychological Factors and Statistical Analysis.

[REDACTED]

P.M.: Lab Workshop -- Sensitometry, Microdensitometry

Friday A.M.: Photointerpretation

[REDACTED]

P.M.: Summary and Question Period.

[REDACTED] will be working with F.F. on this project. [REDACTED] is in J.W.C.'s group and brings to this effort photographic and photointerpretation experience. She should be contacted on project matters in F.F.'s absence.

Additional Analysis of PI responses obtained during our last study is being performed by A.H. The responses are being re-categorized into very specific keys and analyzed for omission, commission and the nature of erroneous responses as a function of ground resolution.

F.S.

[REDACTED]